Letters to the Editor

Excessive Taxes

We, the members of the Vancouver Island Ratepayers' Association, Victoria branch, have no objection to the equalization act which has been passed by our present government. The valuation was set by the provincial assessor at 60 per cent of the value, as a means of getting a fair standard. This assessment equalization has been asked for on several occasions by the Victoria city council. We know taxes have to be levied and paid, so as to keep the services going in the municipality.

What we do object to is the increase in our property taxes, through an increase in the mill rate. When a municipal valuation has increased, without expansion, then the mill rate should come down and taxes would be kept even and everyone be paying their fair share. It is the city council which sets the mill rate and levies the property tax.

HERBERT WATSON, President.
J. N. MORRIS, Secretary.
Vancouver Island Ratepayers' Association,
Victoria Branch.

815 North Park Street.

Canadian Traditions

A brilliant, inspired and most penetrating statement was recently made in our federal House when Louis Fortin made his maiden speech. It was: "There is such a thing as Canadianism, but it will be maintained only so long as the various groups that make up Canada remain attached to their own traditions."

This observation in its wisdom, offers the essence of tolerance without which we are no longer Canadians. It challenges all of us to do more listening and learning, for all around us in Canada is the immigrant, who one day will be no less Canadian than we who have welcomed him to his new home. Most important is the stress placed upon individuality.

K. M. WORTHINGTON-LAKE.

851 Maddison Street.

Foot in Mouth Again

I note in the Colonist of Jan. 21, that Mr. McPhillips has spoken again in Parliament and that he referred to Donald Gordon, the president of the CNR, as "this big pooh-bah down in Montreal."

Quite apart from the fact that I do not know the meaning of the word "pooh-bah" which I cannot find in my dictionary, I feel that it is most unbecoming for the Victoria member of Parliament to refer to one of Canada's greatest brains in that manner. I am afraid such an outburst relegates Mr. McPhillips to the position he has built up in Ottawa as being irresponsible, and as your newspaper very aptly put it some months ago, Mr. McPhillips puts his foot in his mouth every time he speaks.

Mr. McPhillips has every right to ask questions but by being childish he loses the respect not only of his own party members but of the people in general.

I would strongly recommend to Mr. McPhillips that when he wishes to be childish again he should pick someone of his own calibre for his remarks.

M. P. B. WRIXON.

2250 Arbutus Road.

Accent on Canada

I have just listened to a discussion on a local radio station about whether or not we should change our national flag. Some of the people participating referred several times to the British Commonwealth. There is no British Commonwealth. There is a Commonwealth of Nations and a British Empire.

It seems to me a very ridiculous thing for people to voice their opinions in public when they know so little about the subject they are talking about.

May I inform them that Canada originated the British Commonwealth which is now the Commonwealth of Nations.

This doesn't have much to do with whether or not we should change our flag. I think we should have a flag symbolic of Canada alone. I can think of no other reason for having a flag.

JOHN BRADSHAW.

Royal Oak.

New Appraisers

Three Greater Victoria assessors who were recently awarded their certificates by the Appraisal Institute of Canada after a four-year course are George Townsend, bottom, regional councillor of the Veterans' Land Act office; John Ozard, assistant assessor at city hall, and W. Jack Lindsay, Saanich assessor.—(Colonist photo).

Vancouver's Jobless To March on Victoria

VANCOUVER (CP)—Labor leaders here plan a mass march by 600 to 700 persons on the provincial legislature next month to support demands for emergency action to combat unemployment.

The move is the latest planned of many that have made unemployment a leading topic for discussion and dispute in British Columbia during recent weeks.

Today a mass meeting sponsored by the Vancouver Labor Council will discuss unemployment and Council President Lloyd Whalen says it will try to find means to "put pressure on governments until something is done."

The federal government's latest figures, to mid-December, show B.C. with 68,700 unemployed, a decrease of 7,500 from a year earlier, and 514,000 persons working, up 15,000 from the previous year.

The Feb. 2 march on Victoria is being organized by the B.C. Federation of Labor. In a brief to the government recently, the federation demanded that the unemployment situation be declared an emergency and the province take action to combat it including provision immediately of $5,000,000 in assistance.

Labor representatives seek extension of unemployment benefits to all unemployed so long as they are unemployed. They say many unemployed have exhausted their benefits. Labor also seeks public works programs by governments at all levels.

Integration Without Hitch

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — Racial integration began smoothly and without incident Wednesday on Atlanta's buses and trolleys.

Through the evening rush hour the police department and Atlanta transit system said no trouble had been reported.

Negroes had been urged by their leaders to sit where they pleased, but Negro men were cautioned not to sit beside white women.

No Bid Made For New Bank

OTTAWA (CP) — Finance Minister Fleming said yesterday he is unaware of any application for a charter for establishment of a co-operative bank in Canada.

There is some talk among credit unions in favor of establishing such a bank to handle cheques drawn on credit union savings accounts.

The chartered banks have raised their charges for handling such cheques.

Two Robbed, Locked In Car Trunk

TORONTO (CP) — Two Power supermarket employees were robbed of a $7,000 payroll at gunpoint yesterday and then locked in the trunk of their car for nearly an hour before they forced their way out.

Fred Winter, 21, and Arthur Cuccia, 24, had just picked up the money at the Bank of Montreal branch on Toronto's western outskirts when an armed man approached.

Store officials said this was the last time the payroll was to have been brought from the bank in this manner.

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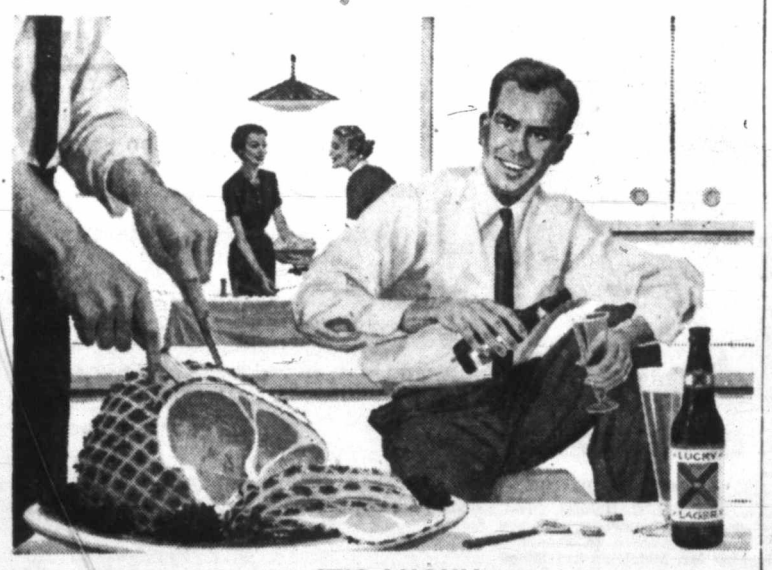

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